New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1921

Owned by New York Tribune Inc., a New York Corporation. Published daily. Ogden Reid, President; G. Vernor Rogers, Vice-President; Helen Rogers Reid, Secretary; R. E. Maifield, Treasurer. Address, Tribune Building, 154 Nassau Street, New York. Telephone, Beekman 3000.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—By mail, including Postage. IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Mail, Postpaid.	One Year	Six Months	One Month
Daily and Sunday	$12.00	$6.00	$1.00
One week, 35c.			
Daily only	10.00	5.00	.85
One week, 20c.			
Sunday only	4.00	2.25	.40
Sunday only, Canada	6.00	3.25	.55
FOREIGN RATES			
Daily and Sunday	$26.00	$13.30	$2.40
Daily only	17.40	8.70	1.45
Sunday only	9.75	5.12	.86

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

GUARANTY

You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety—for if dissatisfaction results in any case THE TRIBUNE guarantees to pay your money back upon request. No red tape. No quibbling. We make good promptly if the advertiser does not.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news of spontaneous origin published herein.

All rights of republication of all other matter herein also are reserved.

Poland's Claim in Silesia

The Upper Silesian situation has been confused in the minds of many Americans by an adroit anti-Polish propaganda. Poland has been represented as trying to make good by force claims in the plebiscite district which have no foundation in equity. It is charged that the Korfanty uprising was inspired from Warsaw and that the Polish government is intriguing to prevent a fair application of the terms of the Versailles Treaty.

On May 18 Premier Witos made an address to the Polish Parliament defining Poland's attitude toward the Upper Silesian disturbances. He said: "I again declare that the Polish government stands firmly by the Treaty of Versailles, desires above all its execution, and is resolved to maintain this point of view." He also announced that the Polish-Silesian border had been effectively closed, that the Warsaw government was opposed to use of arms by the people of Upper Silesia to secure their rights, and that it had done all it could to restrain Korfanty and his followers.

Korfanty is not a Pole. He is an Upper Silesian, long a Deputy in the German Reichstag. He is the leader of a body of former German subjects who have risen in protest against the assignment to Germany of territory which voted in the plebiscite for union with Poland.

Korfanty has drawn a line to separate what he considers pro-Polish Upper Silesia from pro-German Upper Silesia. This line runs from the Posen boundary, north of Rosenberg, in a southwesterly direction to the Oder River, above Oppeln, and then follows the river south-southeast to the old Austro-Prussian boundary. It includes two small enclaves on the western bank. In this district the total pro-German vote was 408,890 and the total pro-Polish vote 434,037. The German emigrant voters numbered 94,065, the Polish emigrant voters less than 5,000. The vote was taken by communes. Of these 662 went Polish and only 226 German.

In this region, as elsewhere in Upper Silesia, there are numerous manor estates owned by Germans. They have a favored status and are kept separate from the communes in which they are situated. The owners exercise semi-medieval legal and political powers. Nearly all of these manors registered the will of the owners. Apart from them the bulk of the German vote was cast in the chief cities.

According to Berlin reports, the British and Italian members of the Upper Silesian Commission wanted to give the two southeastern border districts of Pless and Rybnik to Poland and to turn back the rest of the territory within the Korfanty line to Germany. This would be a manifest injustice. There was a strong pro-Polish majority in many other districts than Pless and Rybnik. An apportionment which would separate the pro-German manors and cities from the rest of the territory is impracticable. Any fair division, taking into account economic solidarity as well as the wishes of a majority of the actual inhabitants, would give Poland virtually all the territory within the Korfanty line.

The pro-Polish Upper Silesians do not covet the territory west of the Oder or the big northern and northwestern segment of the plebiscite area. They concede these to Germany. But they have a valid claim on the eastern and southeastern sections.

This claim was admitted at Paris in the unanimous report of the commission named to fix the Polish boundaries. It wasn't challenged until after the treaty was submitted to the German delegates. Then, unfortunately, Lloyd George influenced Clemenceau and Wilson to annul the commission settlement and to substitute the plebiscite interregnum. Two years of delay and bickering over the execution of the treaty have weakened Allied unity and given Germany a chance to profit by it. Upper Silesia has become a football in Inter-Allied politics. Justice to Poland is being forgotten in a desire to make excessive concessions to Germany.

The peace conference's first thought was best. Why shouldn't the Allied Council achieve unity by going back to it?

Ramshackle City Schools

The attention of the public is again directed to the disgraceful condition of the city's schools. An investigation just made by a number of women's organizations confirms the report made by The Tribune some months ago that the school buildings are a menace to the health and safety of the children attending them, and that overcrowding has increased steadily during the last four years. The Public Education Association has for a long time been attempting to arouse public interest in existing conditions, but with little success. Newspapers have devoted columns to the subject, but in spite of almost unlimited publicity no attempt has been made by the city administration to remedy matters.

Insanitary conditions, leaking roofs, firetrap stairways, wretched ventilation or none at all, rooms with no windows were found. In fact, buildings that factory and tenement inspectors would be expected to condemn are being used to house the children during the greater part of each day. In these rooms they are expected to absorb education and acquire culture. In some kindergarten schools tiny children sit on soap boxes in lieu of chairs. In others not even soap boxes are provided, so they are obliged to sit on the floor. So bad, indeed, are many of the school buildings that the women investigators have compared them to the jails and dungeons of the past, the sanitary conditions being especially revolting.

Instead of expanding public school facilities to take care of a growing population, the schools already built have been allowed to deteriorate. Forty thousand pupils were on part time three years ago. There are now eighty-three thousand on part time. The $52,000,000 recently appropriated for new buildings will take care of the part time pupils. But for the annual increase in school population of 20,000 children and for replacing and repairing the dilapidated buildings now being used nothing has been provided.

While the city administration is clearly responsible for the present state of affairs, the apathy and indifference of the public are contributing factors. If the women's organizations of the city are able to stir the public conscience on this subject the city government will cease to neglect this one of its most important duties.

The Flag's Origin

The perennial and apparently imperishable yarn bobs up again that the Stars and Stripes were designed from Washington's family arms, with this amazing addition, that such origin is a special reason for cherishing and reverencing the Flag. "The coat-of-arms the family flag," we are told, "is something to rally around."

It does not seem to occur to the propagandists of the wretched myth that if the story were true it would present Washington in a discreditable light. If he used the words traditionally attributed to him in reporting the design of the Flag to Congress and declared the Flag had been designed from his arms, he said what wasn't true or was guilty of colossal vanity. It is certain that he did not make it known that he had exploited his family arms. If he had, if there had been any suspicion that he had done so, there would have been a loud protest.

Unless all our ideas of Washington of the cherry tree are false, he was just about the last man in America who would thus under false pretenses have sought to glorify himself. Happily, there never has been the slightest foundation for the silly story, while there are convincing evidences of an entirely different and logical origin of the Stars and Stripes. It is a pity that the invention should persist and periodically reappear; but it is a pious and pleasant duty to hit it whenever it does.

In Defense of Grandmother

The lady who objected the other day to the grandmother of her child being the child's custodian because this wicked and perverse grandmother smokes cigarettes evidently hadn't read Margot Asquith's Diary, and especially the part where Margot incurred the sorrow of the Master of Balliol, who wrote to her: "The Symonds girls at Davos told me that you smoked! At which I am shocked, because it is not the manner of ladies in England."

But that was many years ago. Such a statement would now scarcely be made about the ladies of England, smoking being more general among them than it is among the ladies of America.

Bishop Potter used to say that he stopped smoking because he could not afford to set a bad example. Paul Leicester Ford in his The True Washington declares that "if tradition is to be believed" Washington's mother smoked a pipe. This at the time was largely Virginia practice.

We therefore see that the question of smoking among our grandmothers may not be dismissed lightly. There are two sides to it, as there are to almost every question. Some boys with drunken fathers turn out well, incited to abstinence by a horrible example. But that is not necessarily an argument for drunken fathers.

On the whole, we should not be inclined to discharge a grandmother who smokes. She may otherwise be so useful as to make this fault negligible. As compared with an ancient virago who doesn't smoke, a sweet-tempered grandmother who does smoke is a paragon of virtue.

"Practical" Discoverers

Recent reference in these columns to Henry Hudson as the discoverer of the river which bears his name called from our readers many interesting letters concerning points in American history which are wrongly or imperfectly understood. Thus we are reminded that Giovanni da Verrazano was the real discoverer of the Hudson River, many years before Hudson's time; that Eric the Red and his son Leif discovered America long before Columbus, and that Votan and other voyagers from Indo-China visited and colonized the Pacific coast of America many centuries before the days of the Norsemen.

All that is true, and should be taught as an essential part of the history of America. Nevertheless, it does not in the least degree militate against the honor which should be paid to Columbus and Hudson for their achievements.

The essential point which too many overlook is this, that the thing which counts most is not mere discovery but discovery which amounts to something by producing practical and beneficent results. The Asiatic—probably Burmese—adventurers colonized the Pacific Coast and Mexico. But all the splendors of Maya and Aztec civilization meant nothing to the world at large, and never would have been so much as known to mankind in general had it not been for Columbus. Eric and Leif colonized Vinland and Norumbega, but that great enterprise meant nothing to the world, and it finally waned and perished. The supreme virtue of Columbus's adventure was that it directly led to the opening of the American continents to European civilization and their permanent colonization by Europeans. So Verrazano's discovery of the entrance to the Hudson River meant nothing of practical importance to the world. He did not explore the river nor even demonstrate that such an arm of the sea existed. It was reserved for Henry Hudson to do that, in his quest of a Northwest Passage.

Analogous cases are presented by some of the great inventors. Papin, Newcomen and others antedated Watt with inventions of the steam engine, but it was Watt who perfected and made practical the great design. Miller, Symington and Fitch and others devised steamboats, but it was reserved for Fulton to make the invention of general utility to the world. Others experimented with telegraphic devices in advance of Morse, but it was he who finally put the thing into shape and made it work.

It is well to remember the pioneers, even though their works came to naught. But it is only just that the greatest credit shall be given to those discoverers and inventors whose works prove to be of enduring profit to mankind.

A Governor's Lady

There was the Governor's lady in the play who did not rise socially side by side with her brilliant husband. This was decades before Main Street sounded its tocsin, and she was lovingly contented with a horizon limited by her husband's comfort and her children's welfare—until an ante-cinema vamp had all but hog-tied him. Then, stirred as much by the ire of competition as by any belief in her latent power of fascination, the Governor's lady cut herself asunder from the kitchen apron and made the Governor and his élite set grovel before her wit and shoulders.

But things are now in reverse. It is the wife of social charm who proves she also can cook. A real life Governor's lady, Mrs. Martha McKelvie, wife of the present Governor of Nebraska, not only keeps him happy and "backs him in anything he is ambitious to do," but she herself, without a servant, housekeeps their twenty-one room mansion, all cooking included. This is her reply to those who argue that servantless Western homes will have to be abandoned for coopy apartment houses if women are to have a social and intellectual career. When bitterly told that she was not believed she offered an inspection of her immaculate mansion and her full engagement book. She refers doubters to her neighbors. She offers to match herself intellectually against one critic who belittled her capacity for study in her spare time. How does she do it? Listen:

"The whole discussion is rank nonsense! Will you tell me where the hundreds of women are—women of old Missouri, as I knew it—who got up at 5 o'clock, fed the chickens, milked, churned, packed lunches and got seven or eight children off to school, cooked a breakfast of hickory-smoked ham, eggs, potatoes, cakes, biscuits and coffee (while I fix toast on an electric toaster and boil two one-minute eggs for one husband), the women who put the clothes to soak and had them on the line before their husbands went to the fields, then cooked two more square meals in the day for the hired men and the family? Where are these women? I am willing to bet the ladies of Kansas City that Missouri is full of them. They may not be on your calling list, but they are the foundation of the state. They'll tell you I am doing half the work they do—with more conveniences and easier allowance.

"We women must earn our blessings and not be barnacles. Many of us have inherited money from the savings of pioneers. I should never wear silk next my body without thinking of the toil-worn women who wore the coarse ticking skirt and the undergarments of sacks.

"If the women will only quit arguing they'll soon find a measure of happiness—in proportion to their labor!"

Hurrah for the Governor's lady! She seems to be intelligently balanced between the extremes of drudge and jazz queen. We will have to think of Nebraska in the future as the state of Mrs. McKelvie, of John G. Niehardt as poet laureate, and of the books of Willa Cather, one American fictionist who has eyes in her head and something in her mind.

The Soul of a Nation

Principles of Government and Action Based on Idealism

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In a recent editorial The Tribune speaks of the difficulty with which some people understand the fact that a nation in being true to itself may at the same time, and because of this fact, act unselfishly—act, indeed, with the utmost altruism. It is possible, I believe, to explain this fact by the use of an analogy.

An individual and a nation may be said to be similar in that both have a spiritual and a bodily element. It is, perhaps, wrong to say that a man has a spiritual element. He is a soul; he has a body. If he be true to his soul he is true to himself; and if he be so true his acts are guided in the path of benevolence and rightcousness.

The spiritual element of a nation, the soul of a nation, is the idealism upon which its principles of government and action are based. We of the United States feel that this element of our government is the finest to be found among the nations of the earth. If this nation be true to its ideals it is true to itself, and it will act with proper justice and fitting unselfishness; it cannot do otherwise.

J. C. TEN EYCK Jr.

Newport, R. I., June 4, 1921.

Fair Trial of Prohibition

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: William H. Anderson follows the well-worn footsteps of all prohibitionists when he says that prohibition should have a fair trial, which it can have only through its enforcement.

What would a fair trial prove? It would prove whether abstention from alcohol is a good thing. But is there any one who denies that abstention is a good thing? Has there ever been any difference of opinion regarding the evil of alcohol except in the degree of the evil? It strikes me that only a fool would claim that alcohol is generally healthful.

The question that was put before the courts was whether the law was unconstitutional, not whether abstention was desirable. Those who oppose prohibition do so because they believe the law is contrary to the Constitution of the United States, and that it dictates actions which they believe they are competent to decide for themselves, not because they believe there could be no evil from alcohol.

Therefore, what has a fair trial of prohibition got to do with changing the mind of a man who believes that a law has invaded his rights?

A. D. BRINKERHOFF.

New York, June 4, 1921.

Speaking for the People

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Reviewing the achievements of the Administration, The Tribune emphasizes the clarifying and purifying of the Washington political atmosphere. As only one-twentieth of the term has elapsed, perhaps deduction or prophecy as to the remaining nineteen-twentieths is somewhat risky.

One thing is certain: If the Administration establishes world peace and lifts a little of or even does not add to the tax burdens under which the American people are staggering it will secure the approval and support of everybody but the chronic kickers, whether it is done by a league or an association of nations.

The people are better statesmen than those Washington leaders who The Tribune says objected more to the way Wilson did things than to the deeds themselves. The more intelligent people are tired of words, words, words, and want deeds, deeds, deeds.

E. G. H.

Tryon, N. C., June 3, 1921.

The Volstead Ratio

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Tribune says in its pathetic tale of the demise of Foley's Old Place:

"The square cabinet behind the bar cost $2,600. Yesterday it sold to a junk dealer for $13."

Is this one-half of 1 per cent?

G. H. WRIGHT.

New Milford, Conn., June 2, 1921.

The Privileged Sex

(From The Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger)

Though woman has the vote in Nebraska, she is exempt from poll tax and jury duty, can charge bills for necessities to her husband and has other legal privileges denied to men. Without quarreling with any of these things, it may not be amiss to point out that, not to put too fine a point on it, equal rights is somewhat of a misnomer.

The Conning Tower

HEALTH; AND THE VISION

When I am full of zip, and strong,
When to my lips the ready song
Unsummoned springs; when I can see
Clear-eyed the world, and you, and me;
Then do I see a world unjust,
Few persons worthy love and trust;
And sometimes things appear so bad
That I see carmine, and get mad;
And, full of strength and indignation,
Pen some satiric observation.

When I am reft of pep, and weak,
When fevered is mine ardent cheek,
Then is my vision dulled, and I
See all the universe awry.
Then do I see a world unfair,
And, with a heart bowed by despair
At all the selfishness and greed,
Bitter I grow. I do, indeed.
And ill and weak, as I'm at present,
I write some verses far from pleasant.

It's the Big Things of Life, like Football and Baseball and Hydraulics, that they specialize in at Ann Arbor. Let the effete Oriental universities dawdle over their English! "Bob Sage," says The Michigan Chimes, "whom, we believe wrote the communication . . ."

What a doddering old man we are getting to be! We believe that such an exhibition of English is a greater disgrace to the University of Michigan than it would be to lose another game to Ohio State.

Keeping Up With the Colemans

[Castleton Correspondence in The Albany Times Union]

—Fred Coleman and family passed Sunday with friends in town.—Fred Coleman and family passed Sunday with friends in Hudson.—Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Becker and son of Schenectady were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Coleman.

Hymn of Hate

To the guillotine
With Johnnie Fox;
He puts burnt matches
Back in the box.

MARY AND SI.

Gotham Gleanings

—Terry McGovern has summer lassitude.

—Bob Simon is still working for Earl Babst.

—H. W. Miller is going to the fight July 2.

—Chuck Sabin gave a dinner party Thurs. eve'g.

—Walter Lippmann dined in Gotham Thursday eve'g.

—H. S. Harrison is pretty busy these days at his writing.

—Ye scribe entertained the Thanatopsis Club at his town place Fri. eve'g.

—Nate Salsbury is back east again after 2 yrs. sojourn in the middle west.

—Mr. and Mrs. Julian Street of here have gone to Norfolk, Conn., for the torrid epoch.

—Mrs. De Wolf Hopper went to the show Thurs. eve'g to see her husband act, which he did with much ability and comicality.

Campus Memories

Sir: When I was six, our teacher, with whom I had fallen violently in love, kept us after school one day to break the news of her engagement. She said that she was going away and might never see us again. Down went our little heads on our desks. There was much weeping, and I am sure that I wailed. I achieved, I remember, an intense dislike for the groom-elect. But I think none the less of Admiral Mayo to-day for having wooed and won a gracious and lovable lady in the year of our school 1880-'81.

J. T. S.

Most ethical questions are simple; they are questions of right or wrong. But one more than wontedly complex now confronts us. As we confided last December, we were a 10 per cent partner in the play "Miss Lulu Bett." Well, here is Miss Gale getting the $1,000 Pulitzer prize for her dramatization, as the best American play of the season. Ought we send her a bill for $100?

The Erie Train Talkers

"When you add a stitch on the sleeves do you do it like you do on the neck?"

"Yeah, just like the neck."

"You make the sleeves like the neck?"

"Yeah, just like the neck."

"That's the way I do. When I add a stitch on the sleeves I do just the same as I do on the neck."

"Yeah, it's easy that way. Isn't it?"

"Yeah. You do the sleeves like the neck."

"Yeah, that's the way I do."

W. C. W.

One of the things Baron Ireland can't understand is why nobody in the sport-writing line has called first base at Ebbets Field Coney Island.

The A. Y. M.

Sir: "Julius Caesar," comments the Athaletic Young Man, "is my cheree of the Elizabithian tradegies. But even that is full of anacreonisms!"

A. V. H.

Rarae Aves

On finding this
I was elated;
A nuisance, yes—
But mitigated.

W. P. Mc.

We can stand for the girl with the permanent wave,

For possibly that is the style;

But the fatuous Jane who afflicts us with pain

Is the girl with the permanent smile.

F. P. A.

KEEPING RIGHT UP WITH THE PROCESSION

Copyright, 1921, New York Tribune Inc.

Books

By Heywood Broun

Gilbert Frankau's The Seeds of Enchantment begins as a rather interesting romantic tale of adventure, although we wish the author would refrain from footnotes. He is not content to write that See-Sim poured out "the stengahs" without immediately leaping into an asterisk to explain that a stengah is "a small glass of whisky." To the American public that itself is a phrase sufficiently romantic and exotic. The use of "stengah" adds no extra flavor of excitement. We have also learned from Mr. Frankau's footnotes that "la touffiane" is opium and that "the natives of the French colonies in the East address all white men as 'Capitaine.'"

Occasionally local color comes so thick and fast in The Seeds of Enchantment that there is not time for footnotes. We like it better that way. When deeds of daring are under way a word lost here and there is of no consequence. Still, there are moments when Mr. Frankau's enthusiasms, particularly his passion for geography, leave us behind, a little too breathless to follow.

"Suddenly emotion mastered the Frenchman; he sprang to his feet. 'I, too, have heard that rumor, not once but fifty times. The Khmers of Pnom-Penh have told it to me in the ruins of Angkor Wat. I have heard it in the red lips of Moi girls in Tin-Shuong, from the toothless gums of the fisher folk in the Bay of Halong. At Pakhoi have I heard it, and at Khemerat; in Vien Chan and Phitsalok, from the pilots of Catba and the convicts of Pulau Condore.'"

The stengahs we might have guessed, because the author expressly said that the folk in his novel sat around and drank them, but just what the Khmers are we have no notion and even less as to where or what Pnom-Penh may be. Still, it did not matter much, for we learned after awhile what it was that all these curious people said in so many different places. It was a tale of a mysterious part of China, deep in the interior, in which there lived white women of surpassing beauty, the survivors of some ill-fated expedition many centuries ago. This was the magnet which drew Mr. Frankau's heroes upon the path of adventure, for, as he expresses it somewhat rhapsodically, "The 'demon' which had seized upon these three was the most powerful, the most secret, of all the white man's demons—the demon which never leaves the white man's elbow—the demon which is called 'woman.'"

It may be that this is the demon which other writers have described as the white man's burden, although frankly we were lured to follow the three men on the path of adventure not so much by the stories of the mysterious white women as by the magic drug, the purple seeds, which came from the same country. It was a drug which cheered but did not inebriate. When the Frenchman first accused his English friend of plotting to steal away from him Melie, the beautiful woman of mystery, the Englishman indignantly denied it. Then he ate a purple seed and admitted "Yes, I did covet her." Before answering, the Frenchman took some of the drug and replied "If she had lived I would have given her to you."

Here, we thought, was one of the most genial of stimulants, and we pursued the novel eagerly only to find that Mr. Frankau's adventure novel was merely a vehicle to carry propaganda. The purple seeds turned out to be symbols for the pernicious doctrine of the Socialists. In the last chapter we found the author recording: "For the brain of Cyprian Beamish, M. D., Glasgow, is no longer fuddled. He knows now that the average English-speaking humanity is both wiser and stronger than the cranky minorities who seek hurriedly to reform or impotently to coerce it. He has given up the cultivation of crocuses in art green pots; eats meat with the majority of his countrymen; drinks beer at his lunch; advises all 'flower folk' (as he calls those of his patients who have no occupation) to find a job of work; and maintains—when pressed on the subjects—that communism is a Muscovite atrocity and International Socialism a pernicious doctrine of Hun origin, essentially repulsive to the self-reliant genius of the English-speaking peoples.

"Which is the writer's conclusion."

This seems to us a scurvy trick. A reader ought to be able to pick up an adventure novel without suddenly having it turn into a tract before he has sufficient warning to drop it. We have no definite opinion as to the question of whether the English-speaking peoples possess a "self-reliant genius," but we wish they did not take themselves so seriously. The most difficult thing in the world these days is to find a novel or a story which has the air of being done simply for the fun of the thing. Novelists invariably write to prove that civilization ought to be saved, or, perhaps, destroyed. Practically all the short fiction in America is devoted to proving that a man with a cheerful disposition and a strong personality can become a good salesman of one kind or another and make a great deal of money. Magazine editors less and less pick up a manuscript and say "I like this" or "This seems pretty rotten to me." Instead they thumb the pages and remark "I wonder just what reaction we would get with this from the farmer in Iowa." Before a poor struggling author can answer the editor tells him.

This farmer from Iowa is too much with us. He seems to demand, even in his fiction, advice on how to succeed, and having succeeded how to stay there. In our opinion there is a great pining public east, west, north and south of Iowa which would like to see a whole flood of merry fiction which didn't have a purpose in the world. In the flood should be books and magazines and plays written by men and women who sat down with no thought in the world except to please themselves. The self-sacrifice of the modern fictionist has gone much too far for our taste.

Filipinos for Independence

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In connection with the Wood-Forbes investigation in the Philippines there appeared recently in your columns stories to the effect that the Filipino business men and Igorrotes were against the independence of their country. They were dispatches by The Associated Press.

We have taken steps to verify the dispatches. Our correspondent at Manila brands the news at false.

The business men who are against independence are the American business men, not the Filipino business men. The Igorrotes are not against independence at all.

Practically all of the Filipinos are for independence. Never has a nation been so united in a national cause.

J. P. MELENCIO,

Director Philippine Press Bureau.

Washington, D. C., June 4, 1921.

A Double Tragedy

Lost Childhood and Lost Life of Eight-Year-Old Boy Worker

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your columns the other day contained the story of an eight-year-old boy "who despite his youth has for months been the head of a family of five" and who "was struck down and killed yesterday by a trolley-car in front of his home." It seems that the accident occurred while the boy, who worked in a store before and after school, was running an errand for his mother and that he was hurrying in order not to be late for school.

Doubtless this pathetic story caused a good deal of heart throbbing among the readers of your paper. But what about a little heart throbbing in advance of such tragedies? What about the tragedy of a childhood prematurely lost through work excessive in the time and energy it takes away from schooling and normal play?

"But the child's family is poor. He has to work." This is one of the most frequent attempts at justification of child labor, although it has been shown that child labor, instead of reducing poverty in families and communities increases it. As for the immediate needs of the poverty-stricken family, there are ways to meet them without penalizing the child; instead, allowing him to play and go to school and thus be helped out of poverty. Such means are found in children's scholarships, mothers' pensions and other methods of aid and relief.

A society which permits a child of eight years to be the chief support of a family of five can hardly be regarded as quite civilized—unless this is what civilization means.

OWEN R. LOVEJOY,

General Secretary National Child Labor Committee.

New York, June 4, 1921.

The Dearth of Tenements

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your correspondent Nathan J. Ottinger, overlooks an important point in economics in discussing the present dearth of tenements. The point is that economic conditions tend automatically to stabilize themselves unless artificially manipulated. With restricted production of building materials in order to keep up prices and with trade unions limiting the number of their members in order to maintain high wages, to say nothing of "Brindell" combinations, how can economic laws work to an automatic adjustment in tenement building?

The cessation of building, by cutting down the demand for labor and materials, should reduce the prices of these commodities. This would encourage building, since capital could make a profit on houses erected at low costs. But certain interests have seen to it that there shall be no drop in building construction costs; consequently there is no motive for investment in the erection of apartments.

End this price manipulation, and there will be no need of bewailing the dearth of tenements or the action of legislators who enacted laws protecting the people from the ravages of injured (?) landlords who, with tears in their eyes, were forced to boost rents sky-high in obedience to the law of natural economics.

CHARLES P. ERRINGTON.

New York, June 3, 1921.

On a Joy Ride

(From The Providence Journal)

The Swiss glacier that has broken all records by moving six inches a day should be arrested for speeding.